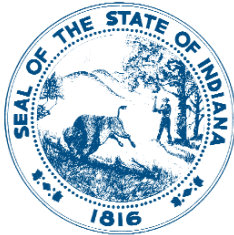


# Jeb Bardon

Indiana State Representative



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Spring, 2002

Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session has ended. While we passed several important pieces of legislation, I am disappointed we did not reach agreement on a major tax restructuring plan or address the state budget deficit. Governor O'Bannon has called us back for a special session in May, and it is my hope that these issues will be resolved at that time.

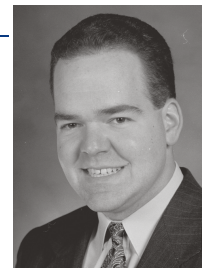
Despite a rather frustrating end to the short session, legislators were successful in passing some laws that directly impact public safety and the safety of our children. These are areas of special concern for me, and I have explained a number of them in this newsletter.

New laws seek to protect children from those who would exploit them. We strengthened child pornography laws and created an alert system to synchronize efforts to save missing children. We also expanded the sex offender registry, requiring sex offenders to register with their county sheriff so that people in their community will be aware of their presence.

After the attacks on September 11, legislators were prompted to create a counter-terrorism council and initiate a statewide communication system for emergency personnel. Gas price gouging in times of emergency will be a criminal offense. I also discuss other new crime laws inside.

Please contact me if you have questions about any of these issues or concerns about state government. You can call my legislative office at 232-9830.

Sincerely,

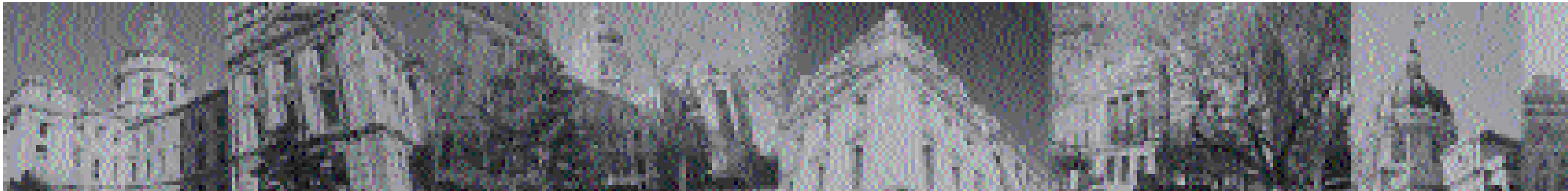


**Inside**

•Anti-terrorism laws

•Protecting children

•Relief for victims' families



Other laws address terrorism and its aftermath

Aircraft offenses

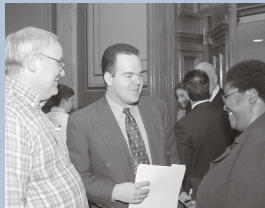
Senate Bill 10 permits the use of reasonable force to stop a person from hijacking or seizing unlawful control of an aircraft in flight. The bill also makes it a felony to enter a secured area of an airport, use force or violence to hijack an aircraft in flight or commit criminal confinement on an aircraft.

Nerve agents

Last year's anthrax scare evidenced the need for greater security against chemical and biological warfare. House Bill 1029 establishes training and certification standards to allow emergency medical technicians in certain counties to administer antidotes for exposure to VX nerve agents.

Victim tax relief

For those personally affected by the events of September 11, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 50, which excludes from state income tax any compensation paid to an attack victim's spouse or child.



REP. BARDÓN MEETS WITH CONSTITUENTS IN THE STATEHOUSE.

Legislature stands together on public safety laws

Lawmakers act against terrorism, other threats

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat. The members of the Indiana General Assembly passed several laws during this session to help meet the challenge of our new defense requirements.

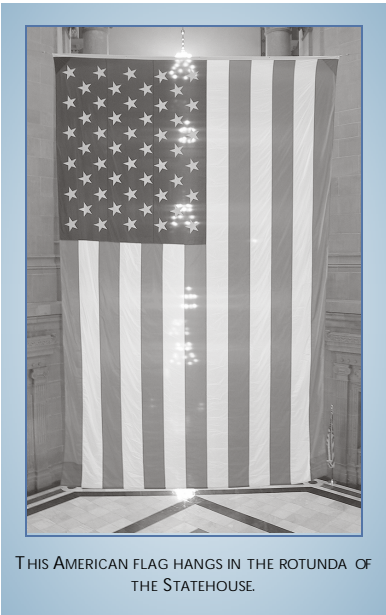
House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) that will serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, the council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counter-terrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop an integrated wireless public safety system to help connect agencies across the state in case of an emergency (see article on Project Hoosier SAFE-T). A portion of

the service charge will also be used to alleviate the state police crime laboratory backlog.

The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of commercial driver's licenses and hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices, the possession of a weapon of mass destruction or the intent to cause a person to believe that a substance is a weapon of mass



THIS AMERICAN FLAG HANGS IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE STATEHOUSE.

destruction

- disorderly conduct on airport premises
- interruption or impairment of work at a food processing facility
- the expulsion of a student who brings a destructive device on school property.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.

Project Hoosier SAFE-T

Part of the new anti-terrorism law provides funding for Project Hoosier SAFE-T, a system that allows public safety agencies to communicate with each other during emergencies.

Any event that crosses county lines, such as a severe storm, a police chase or a fatal accident puts the first responders and the victims at risk if officials are unable to cooperate and respond quickly.

The new system will connect all participating local, state and federal public safety agencies. Eliminating incompatible or obsolete radio systems will save Hoosier lives.

Crime reports bill

This year I authored a bill that would have made crime reports more uniform in Indiana. House Bill 1340 would have required law enforcement agencies to make uniform crime reports to the Indiana State Police and to the FBI.

It is my hope that making improvements in the reporting system will aid the collection of crime statistics in Indiana and across the country.

This bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee, of which I am a member. It did not progress this year, but I will continue my efforts to improve policing and public safety.

New crime laws expand sex offender registry, penalize gas price gouging

Each year the Legislature passes a number of bills that create new offenses or toughen penalties against existing crimes. During the 2002 session, lawmakers expanded the sex offender registry. Senate Bill 367 requires offenders to register with the sheriff in the county in which they reside, and that county sheriffs jointly maintain a sex offender registry Website containing the photograph, address and other information about an offender.

A new measure is designed to penalize fuel retailers who artificially inflate gas prices in times of crisis. House Bill 1015, which came into being after citizens complained that some dealers were charging exorbitant prices for gas in the days after September 11, will allow the Indiana attorney general to investigate complaints on price gouging and seek relief that would include fines and restitution to victims.

House Bill 1005 is designed to prevent people from throwing such burning material as lit cigarettes from moving vehicles. Anyone found guilty of the crime could receive a fine of up to \$1,000.

Additionally, new laws increase the penalties for such crimes as battery by body waste and leaving the scene of a boating accident.



REP. BARDÓN DISCUSSES LEGISLATION WITH REP. PEGGY WELCH (D-BLOOMINGTON).

Impact statements to provide relief for victims' families

House Bill 1012, which was signed into law by the governor, concerns victim impact statements. It requires judges to allow family members of murder victims to make statements in court detailing how the crime affected their lives. These statements would be made after sentencing by the judge, in those cases where the offender is sentenced to death or life without parole.

These family members never will have the chance to replace a loved one whose life has been taken through the violent criminal act of another person. However, I hope that speaking directly to the offender will be a crucial step in helping the families put the tragedy behind them.

This legislation has been sought by victim rights advocates for several years in Indiana, and I am glad to see that we have been able to set aside concerns about disruption of court proceedings that have derailed the proposal in the past.

The impact statements also help reinforce the severity of the crime to the offender and give that person a chance to show some remorse for their actions.

## Child protection a top priority

Protecting the innocence of our children from those who would harm them is a key issue for me. I was pleased with the passage of a bill I co-authored, House Bill 1010, which states that **an offender must forfeit equipment used in preparing or circulating child pornography**, or material harmful to minors. The law also prohibits making a computer containing such harmful material available to another person.

Legislators also took action against an increase in **child pornography on the Web**. House Bill 1010 specifies that existing laws concerning child exploitation, possession of child pornography, and obscenity and pornography apply to digitized images. The law also increases penalties for child exploitation and possession of child pornography.

I was glad to see the creation of the **Amber Alert program**, set forth in Senate Bill 20, which establishes a missing child network. This network includes a statewide, toll-free telephone line to report missing children and sightings of missing children, a clearinghouse of child identification and investigative information, and agreements with local television stations to broadcast information about a missing child.



REPRESENTATIVE BARDON AND OTHER MEMBERS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HELPED TO BUILD A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME IN SEPTEMBER. THE HOME WAS ONE OF A 25-HOME BUILDING BLITZ THAT HABITAT CONDUCTED IN INDIANAPOLIS FOR ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2001.



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